

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is requested in view of the amendments made herein and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 3-21 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 6-14 and 17-21 are amended. No new matter has been added.

This Amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.116 which permits entering of amendments after receipt of a final rejection. The amendments do not raise any new issues requiring further search or consideration. Applicants respectfully request that the amendments be entered.

The Office Action notes an informality in claim 17. Claim 17 is amended to address this informality.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,159,195 to Ha et al. this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ha does not disclose a catheter including a linear wire, a tubular body placed on a distal inside of the linear wire and allowing a guide wire to penetrate its hollow portion as in independent claim 1 or a linear wire having a distal end, a tubular body having a distal end and a hollow portion adapted to be penetrated by a guide wire, the tubular body being secured to the linear wire so that the distal end of the tubular body is always located distally beyond the distal end of the linear wire as in independent claim 11.

In a catheter according to claims 1 and 11, a guide wire may penetrate the hollow portion 31 of the tubular body 31. See Specification at Fig. 2. In Ha a guide wire cannot penetrate the hollow portion of the occlusion catheters depicted in Figs. 1 and 2 of Ha.

The occlusion catheter shown in Figs. 1 and 2 of Ha are for use with the exchange catheters depicted in Figs. 3-15. The occlusion catheters include a core wire member 120 secured to the elongated tubular member 114 within the inner lumen 115 by a combination of adhesives and crimps 129. See Ha at col. 5, lines 56-60. The guide wire is not inserted through the occlusion catheters depicted in Figs. 1 and 2. Figs. 3-15 do not include any disclosure of a linear wire. The Office Action has incorrectly combined features of the occlusion catheters of Figs. 1 and 2 with features of the exchange catheters of the remaining Figs.

The Office Action comments that Figs. 5, 7, 9, 11 and 14 of Ha disclose the tubular body secured to the linear wire so that the distal end of the tubular body is always located beyond the distal end of the linear wire as in independent claim 11. However, Figs. 5, 7, 9, 11 and 14, directed to the exchange catheter, do not disclose the linear wire.

The Office Action also observes that Figs. 5, 7, 9, 11 and 14 of Ha disclose the wire connected to a tubular body under a condition that the distal end portion of the wire partially overlaps with a proximal end portion of the tubular body as in dependent claim 10. However, Figs. 5, 7, 9, 11 and 14, directed to the exchange catheter, do not disclose a linear wire. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection of dependent claim 10 is respectfully requested.

The remaining dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to the independent claims and for the individual features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Early and favorable action with respect to this application is respectfully requested.

Should any questions arise in connection with this application or should the Examiner believe that the telephone conference with the undersigned would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues pertaining to this application, the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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